

MATAMATA BRIDGE CLUB
TIPS FOR BETTER BRIDGE
Thursday 16 February 2017

You need to agree with your partner that you are playing splinters before you use them
If you and your partner decide to play splinters, then you can only play Gerber over NT

Definition of a Splinter Bid

An unusual jump in the bidding

- Forcing to game
- Usually shows
 - 10-13 HCP with a fit for partner and a singleton; or
 - 9-12 HCP with a fit for partner and a void
- With more HCP, generally use other methods (eg Jacoby 2NT)
- With the knowledge of a singleton or void the partnership can better decide whether a slam contract is possible

Either Partner Can Splinter

- splinter bids can be made by either partner
- Jumps one level higher than is necessary for a jump shift or for a reverse.

Splinter Bids by the Opener

Example 1

Opener	Responder	Note
2	KQ54	
AK54	Q8763	
KQ1087	32	
A54	J10	
1♦	1♥	2♠ would be a regular reverse
3♠	4♥	

Opener *splinters* showing a singleton or void in ♠, 4+ card support in ♥, and slam interest.

The responder, with very few values, is not interested in a slam and signs off in a game contract in Hearts.

Example 2

Opener	Responder	Note
AJ54	KQ9732	
2	A874	
AK9	2	
AKJ76	54	
1♣	1♠	
3♥	4♥	2♥ would be a reverse. 4♥ shows A♥
4NT	5♠	Roman Key Card Blackwood – 2 key cards and Q♠
7♠ (or 7NT)		

Splinter Bid by the Responder

Opener	Responder	Note
4	AK765	
AQJ765	K93	
A76	3	
Q43	A765	
1♥	1♠	
2♥	4♦	Shows a singleton or void, at least 3-card support in Hearts, game values, and slam interest.

Non-Obvious Employment of Splinter Bid

The *splinter bid* can be used under different and sometimes unexpected circumstances, which each partner must expect and recognize as such.

Opener	Responder	Note
Q105	4	
AK9875	J1042	
AKQ	1063	
A	QJ843	
2♣	2♦	
2♥	3♠	